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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/784,424

02/23/2004

Haruki Hiranuma

S004-5218

2561

7590

01/12/2006

ADAMS & WILKS

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50 Broadway

New York, NY 10004

EXAMINER

KAYES, SEAN PHILLIP

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2841

DATE MAILED: 01/12/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/784,424

Applicant(s)

HIRANUMA ET AL.

Examiner

Sean Kayes

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-4 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 23 February 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2/23/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Regarding claim 2, the phrase " is made open toward a tip plane " renders the claim indefinite because the "tip plane" is not defined or clarified in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatsumi (JP 57046181) in view of Carlini (US 5576496.)
5. With respect to claim 1 Tatsumi discloses a portable watch, comprising: a case band (P1, picture I. provided below) provided with a pipe-attachment hole opening (P2) toward both an intracase-band plane and an extracase-band plane;

Art Unit: 2841

a winding stem pipe (P4) provided with an insertion (P12) and including an intracase-band end section to be arranged inside of the case band, an extracase-band end section including a male screw section (P5); a crown (P6) including a crown main section formed with a female screw section (P7) to be screwed together with the male screw section (P5) in a removable manner.

Tatsumi does not disclose a pin groove in the case or on the winding pipe, a rotation-stop pin, wherein the insertion section is removable, or a pipe stopper.

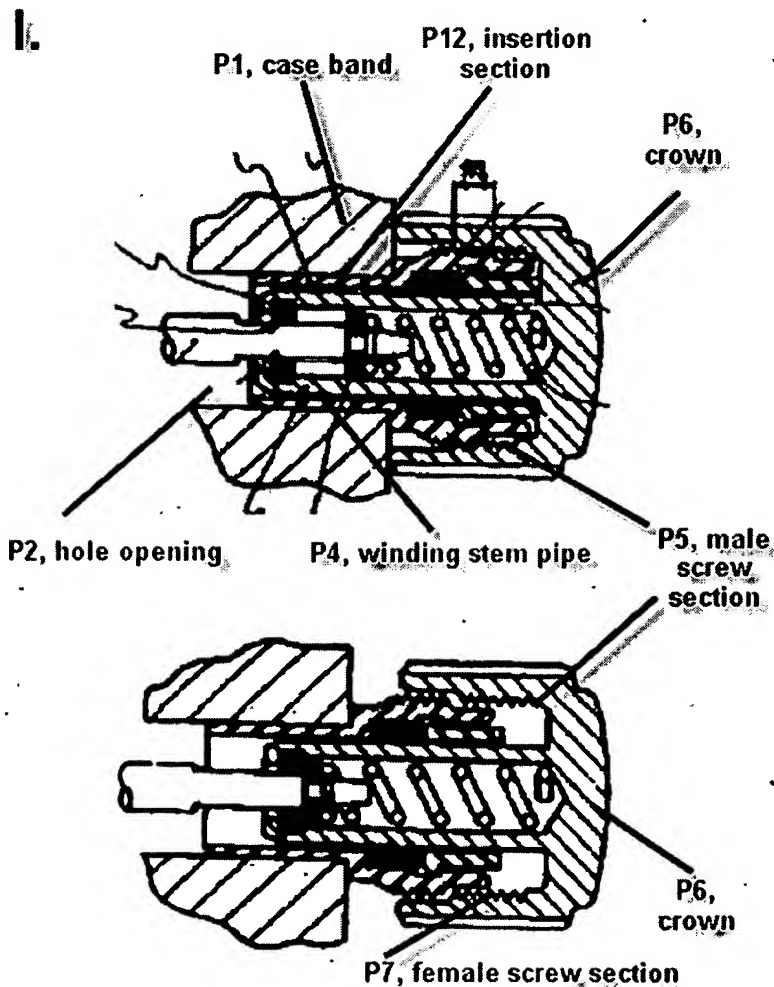
Carlini discloses a pin-receiving groove (P3) opening toward the pipe-attachment hole and also toward at least either the intracase-band plane or the extracase-band plane; an insertion section (P12) having playably inserted into the pipe-attachment hole in a removable manner from outside of the case band, and another pin-receiving groove (P10) opening toward an outer rim plane of the insertion section and facing to the pin-receiving groove; a rotation-stop pin (P9) arranged across both of the pin-receiving grooves; a pipe stopper (P8) engaged with an engagement groove (P11) provided to the intracase-band end section in a removable manner to prevent the winding stem pipe from being disengaged.

Note: While Carlini's pipe stopper, P8, is compatible with Tatsumi's invention it would require a very long screw or to be set at an angle to utilize a shorter screw. It may be desirable to use another kind of pipe stopper. Several kinds of well-known devices can be utilized. For instance a screwing lock-ring/nut (13, US 4308665), a lock-pin (figure 1, US 2399119), or a lock-ring (13, US 2476617.)

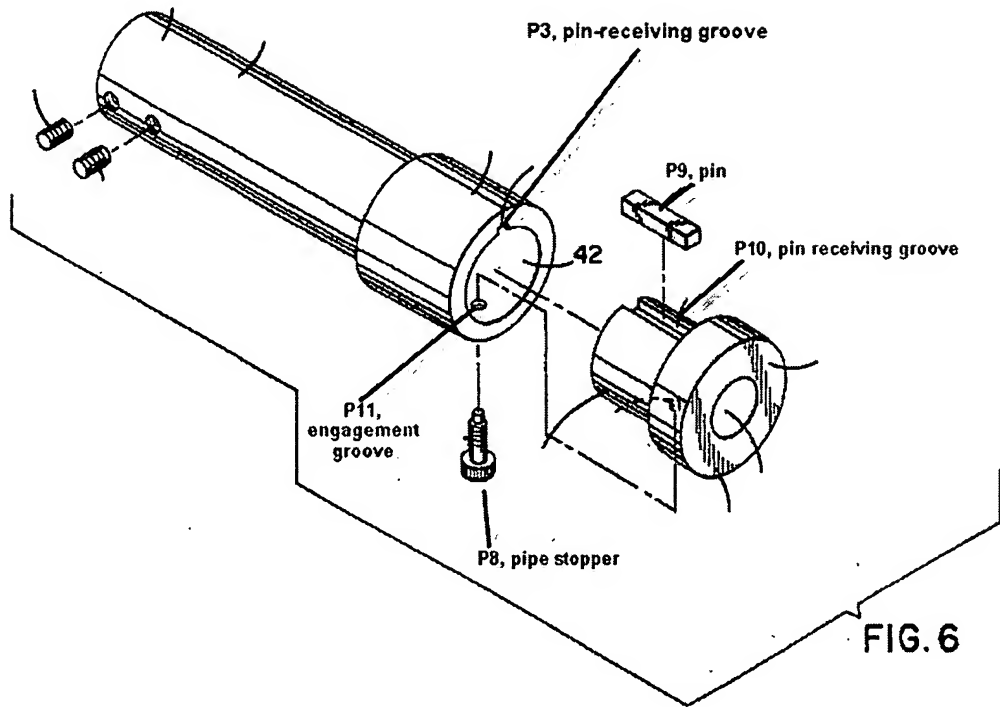
Tatsumi and Carlini are analogous art because they are dealing with the same problem namely securing pipes inside cylindrical openings in a rotationally secure fashion.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Carlini's pin securing design with Tatsumi's invention.

The suggestion motivation for doing so would be to eliminate the need for brazing in construction, to further allow the winding stem to be removed, and replaced.



II.



6. With respect to claim 3 Tatsumi in view of Carlini discloses a portable watch according to claim 1, wherein the rotation-stop pin (P9) is sandwiched, in an axial direction between a groove end of the pin-receiving groove (P10) of the winding stem pipe locating closer to the extracase-band end section and the pipe stopper.

7. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tatsumi (JP 57046181) in view of Sloane (US 5882044.)

8. With respect to claim 4 Tatsumi discloses a portable watch comprising:
A case band provided with a pipe-attachment hole opening toward an intracase-band plane and an extracase-band plane; a winding stem pipe provided with: an insertion section (P12), and including an intracase-band end section to be arranged inside of the case band; and an extracase-band end section including a

male screw section (P5); and a crown (P6) including a crown main section formed with a female screw section (P7) to be screwed together with the male screw section in a removable manner.

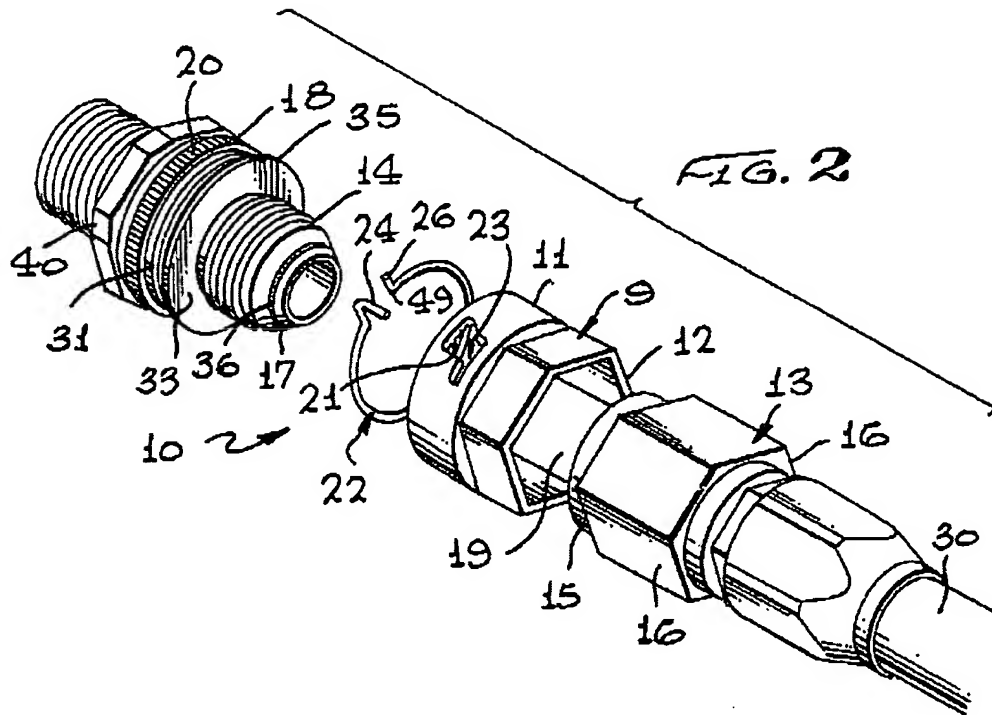
Tatsumi does not disclose a noncircular hole, or wherein the insertion section is noncircular, wherein the insertion section is removable, or a pipe stopper.

Sloane discloses a noncircular pipe-attachment hole (19, figure 2, a copy of which is provided below) opening toward an intracase band plane and an extracase-band plane; insertion section (16) having an outer rim being noncircular in shape corresponding to the pipe-attachment hole to be playably inserted into the pipe-attachment hole from outside of the case band in a removable manner; a pipe stopper (35, provided with male threads 14) engaged with an engagement groove (female threads inside of insertion section) provided to the intracase-band end section in a removable manner to prevent the winding stem pipe (P4) from being disengaged;

Tatsumi and Sloane are analogous art because they deal with the same problem namely rotationally fixing pipes in a housing.

At the time of the invention it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to combine Sloane's pipe fixing design with Tatsumi's invention.

The suggestion motivation for doing so would be to provide a more stable fit and allow the winding stem to be removed and/or replaced.

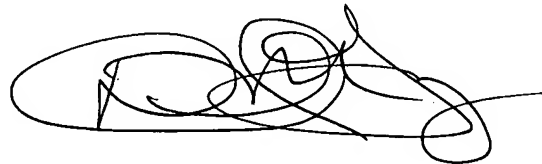


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean Kayes whose telephone number is (571) 272-8931. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Gray can be reached on (571)272-2119. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gray', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

David Gray
Primary Examiner

SK
12/19/05